September 2023

DCI E-news

Duke Cancer Institute

DCI E-News is a monthly newsletter sharing the latest DCI and oncology-related announcements, feature stories, and news updates. For more, visit the DCI Blog.

In the Spotlight

CAUTION
MATCHED!
IN Head & Neck Surgery
AT Stanford

Lessons from Duke: Centering the Patient Experience with a Role for Theology

Monica Bodd thinks a lot about the patient experience and how to make it better.

While earning her MD and her Masters of Theological Studies (MTS) degrees at Duke, she learned from some of the best, including **Thomas LeBlanc, MD, MA, MHS**; **Dan Rocke, MD, JD**; **Walter Lee, MD, MHS**; **Warren Kinghorn MD, ThD**; **Sarah Barton OT, ThD**; **Susan Eastman, MDiv, PhD**; and **Kate Bowler, PhD**.

As she was leaving Duke to begin her residency in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Stanford Medicine this past spring, she spoke with DCI about some of the unique projects she got to work on and co-lead as a medical student and the wisdom and practices she's carrying forward in her medical career. READ

Oncology Access Center Accelerates Referrals, Scheduling

A new Duke Cancer Institute Oncology Access Center has simplified the physician referral process and accelerated scheduling for patients, including offering appointments within 48 hours at Wake County locations.

"We are working to make sure referring providers feel they are true partners with our oncology team," says medical oncologist **Neeraj R. Agrawal, MD**, director of Wake County Oncology for DCI. "With our oncology access center, we can ensure a successful, prompt referral with a single call. Referring physicians can now participate in a seamless, two-way communication loop that provides frequent updates about their patients."

Launched as a pilot project in Wake County, DCI leaders want to expand the access center model to all Oncology sites. READ

Oncology Access Center

1-866-DUKE-123

One Phone Number.
Concierge Service.

Appointments within 48 Hours.

The Cooperative Human Tissue Network of the NCI: Supporting Cancer Research for 35 Years, Changing Patients' Lives

The Cooperative Human Tissue Network was created by the National Cancer Institute in 1987 to support a coordinated national effort to collect and distribute high quality, pathologist-validated human tissues for cancer research.

In a new article in Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, CHTN Southern Division leader **Shannon McCall, MD** (corresponding author), together with the other 5 CHTN Division leaders and NCI staff, break down the advances of the past 15 years, including the shift from molecular biomarker testing of individual genes to panels of hundreds of genes to the increased use of whole-exome and whole-genome sequencing, and steps they are taking to optimize the representation of diverse communities among the distributed biospecimens.

Duke has been the CHTN Southern Division Headquarters since 2019.

This division encompasses the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama,Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and New Mexico. Operational and scientific highlights of the CHTN Southern Division (page 7 of the review) include: the Frameshift Molecular Registry of Tumors and leading edge technologies like whole-slide imaging, nucleic acid extraction, digital spatial profiling/transcriptomics via the NanoString GeoMx platform, multiplexed IHC stains for standard immune markers, and more. READ

KS
NM
OK
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Southern Division
*Primary for Mexico
CHTN
COOPERATIVE
HUMAN TISSUE
NETWORK

Clinic & Community News

Q & A: What Do Cardio-Oncologists Do, and When Do You Need One?

Cancer treatments shrink and kill cancer cells; however, they can also damage your heart. That is concerning if you are at risk for or have a heart condition when you are diagnosed with cancer. **Susan Dent, MD** specializes in treating people with cancer and heart disease.

In a Q & A with Duke Health, she explains what cardio-oncologists do, and when they should be part of your cancer care. READ

Expanding Thoracic Oncology Team Elevates Cancer Care in Wake County, Rapid Access Now Available

New DCI thoracic oncologist **Laura Alder, MD**, who completed a hematology-oncology fellowship at Duke before becoming full-time faculty in August, treats patients with mesothelioma, lung cancer, and other thoracic cancers at DCI cancer centers in Raleigh and Durham. She has a special interest in treating lung cancer that has spread to the brain and is excited about the expansion of brain and spine metastasis services into Wake County. READ

VJ
ONCOLOGY
Oncology Podcasts
Applications of AI in Oncology
Listen now on your favourite podcast platform

LISTEN: Applications of AI in Oncology

Cancer plays a substantial role in worldwide mortality, accounting for approximately 9.3 million deaths each year. The applications of AI in oncology encompass the refinement of cancer research methodologies, the enhancing of clinical protocols, gaining deeper insights into the intricate characteristics of tumors, and more. **Manisha Palta, MD,** and **Andrew Armstrong, MD, MSc,** discuss. LISTEN

DukeHealth
Car T-cell Therapy:
Changing the Way We Treat Cancer

WATCH: How CAR T-Cell Therapy is Changing the Way We Treat Cancer

Duke was the first center in the state to offer FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapy, a personalized immunotherapy that can be used to fight specific forms of lymphoma and leukemia when other treatments have proven ineffective. **Ahmed Galal, MD,** explains how it works and answers some common questions.

New Leadership Reinvigorates EDI Mission at Duke Surgery

Duke Surgery in recent years has experienced growth from–and established dedicated resources toward–enhanced diversity among faculty, trainees, staff, and partners.

The Duke Surgery Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) leadership team includes **Gayle DiLalla, MD,** (at left) the inaugural Vice Chair of EDI. She was named to the role in August 2022.

READ

MORE

Duke Offers New Treatment for High-Risk Blood Cancers *(Clinical Practice Today)*
Features **Mitchell Horwitz, MD**

Case-Based Roundtable: Immunotherapy Options for an Older Patient With Metastatic Melanoma *(Targeted Oncology)*
Features **April Salama, MD**

Gasparetto Reviews Data for Selinexor Combination Regimen in R/R Multiple Myeloma *(Targeted Oncology)*
Features **Cristina Gasparetto, MD**

ABC11 Together Perspectives features Upcoming Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Walk & Run *(WTVD)*
Features **Brittany Davidson, MD**

Pencina Named Chief Data Scientist: Will Bridge Data Science, Health Care, and AI *(Duke School of Medicine)*
Features **Michael Pencina, PhD**

Neoadjuvant Durvalumab plus chemo followed by Adjuvant Durvalumab does not provide benefit for EGFR+ *(Onc Live)*
Features **David Harpole, MD**

Research News

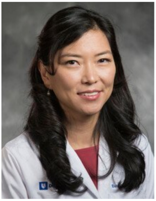
Susan G. Komen Renames Hartman's Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Grant in Honor of DCI Patient, MBC Advocate

A $500,000 Susan G. Komen grant award to DCI's **Zachary Hartman, PhD**, and UNC Lineberger's Benjamin Vincent, MD, has been renamed the "Susan G. Komen Metastatic Breast Cancer Collaborative Research Grant in honor of Rhonda Crocker Howell" to honor Howell's passion for advancing MBC research, her advocacy for those living with MBC, and her contributions to the breast cancer community in Raleigh. In all, Howell raised $375,000 to fund research grants for cures to the disease that ultimately claimed her life.

A longtime DCI and UNC Rex patient, she passed away in January 2022 at the age of 42. She had been living with metastatic breast cancer since 2015.

Hartman and Vincent's research team is developing a personalized anti-tumor vaccine for advanced triple negative breast cancer that would mobilize the body's immune system (T cells) to shut down tumor growth and metastasis.

"Throughout Rhonda's battle with cancer, she demonstrated unwavering strength and commitment to raise awareness and funding for research to find a cure for this horrid disease. We are touched and honored to know that her determination and passion to make a difference in the lives of others impacted by breast cancer will continue to serve as a beacon of hope for so many," said Howell's mother, Ginger Crocker. READ



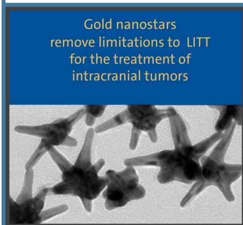
How Should Breast Biopsy Site Markers Tied to Malignancy be Handled?

Eun Langman, MD, **Karen S. Johnson, MD**, and **Maggie L. Dinome, MD,** found, in a recent study, that "initial postoperative mammography isn't enough to exclude malignancy based on breast biopsy site markers."

"Patients with retained BSMs associated with malignant index lesions are at substantial risk of having residual malignancy," they concluded.

The findings were published in the American Journal of Roentgenology on August 30.

READ



In a new study in Clinical Cancer Research, DCI researchers reported evidence that plasmonics-active gold nanostars remove limitations to Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT) in the treatment of intracranial tumors and improve the efficiency and potentially the safety of the procedure. Gold nanostar-infused phantom studies showed increased rates of heating, heat contouring to tumor borders, and decreased heating of surrounding regions.

Peter Fecci, MD, PhD, is senior author, and **Ethan Srinivasan**, **MD, Yang Liu, PhD, Ren A Odion**, **PhD,** and **Pakawat Chongsathidkiet**, **MD, PhD,** are co-first authors.

READ

DUHS Launches New Precision Medicine Study

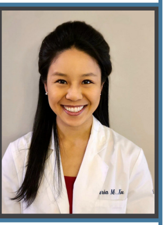
The Duke University Health System and School of Medicine are launching OneDukeGen, a six-year precision medicine study that will advance healthcare through cutting-edge research and collaboration. Investigators led by study PI **Svati Shah, MD, MHS**, hope to sequence genomes from 100,000+ patients; looking for variants that could predispose a person to contracting diseases, including cancer. READ

New LCI Research Fellows Named

Neelima Navuluri, MD, MPH: "Veterans Affairs Cancer Decision Aid and Referral (VA-CEDAR) Tool for Equity in Lung Cancer Screening " (Mentor: **Scott Shofer, MD**)

Maria Mei Xu, MD, PhD "SOX9 promotes a unique immunogenic state in small cell lung cancer (SCLC)" (Mentor: **Trudy Oliver, PhD**)

READ



MORE

A Geospatial Analysis of Disparities in Access to Oncofertility Services (*JAMA*)
Features **Ben Peipert, MD** (residency '23; Penn Medicine REI fellow) & **Ben Harris, MD** (residency '19, REI fellowship '22)

Triple Negative Breast Cancer and Brain Metastases *(Clinical Breast Cancer)*
Features **Rani Bansal, MD**

A team co-led by **Scott Floyd, MD, PhD**, has been awarded $109,000 of new funding from Ian's Friend Foundation to further research on pediatric brain cancer *(UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy)*

Jones Named Editor in Chief of Journal of Palliative Medicine *(Duke Department of Medicine)*
Features **Christopher A. Jones, MD, MBA**

The Mortality Burden of Cachexia in Patients With Colorectal or Pancreatic Cancer: A Systematic Literature Review *(ASCO Reading Room Selection)*
Features **Jeffrey Crawford, MD**

Challenges in treating SCLC *(American Journal of Managed Care)*
Features **Tom Stinchcombe, MD**

A neural ordinary differential equation model for visualizing deep neural network behaviors in multi-parametric MRI-based glioma *(Medical Physics)*
Features **Eugene Vaios, MD, MBA**, **Kyle Lafata, PhD**; **Scott Floyd, MD, PhD**; **Chunhao Wang, PhD**

READ: 2022-2023 Office for Faculty Annual Year in Review *(Duke Office for Faculty)*

Events

Academic Events (strictly academic or clinical)

September

SEPT. 14 (5p to 6p via Zoom): Black Men in Medicine "Moving Forward Together" (series) RSVP here
Calendar invites with Zoom details will be sent upon registration
Questions? Email johann@duke.edu

SEPT. 15 (internal): DCI Superstar nominations are due

SEPT. 26 (Noon to 1p, via Zoom): DCRI Fireside Chat with National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Director Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD

SEPT. 27 (8a to 9a, via Zoom): The September DCI Seminar Series features Mary Jo Turk, PhD (Co-Director, Immunology and Cancer Immunotherapy Program, Norris-Cotton Cancer Center, Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine). She will present “Identifying precursors of resident memory T cells in cancer.”

Email **Joan Lofton, MBA, AGM**, for the Zoom link at joan.lofton@duke.edu

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SEPT. 28 (4p to 5p, with reception to follow): DCBSM Guest Lecture: Akanksha Sharma, MD, Presents "Seeing the Whole Person: How Palliative Care Can Improve Outcomes in Patients with Brain Metastases"
*Dr. Sharma specializes in neuro-oncology and palliative medicine at the Pacific Neuroscience Institute and she's an assistant professor at St. John's Cancer Institute

LOCATION: Trent Semans Center 6th floor

October

OCT. 2-3 (in person): "Celebrating Scientific Discoveries that Advance Human Health: A Scientific Symposium in Recognition of Robert J. Lefkowitz’s 50 years at Duke"

This event will include scientific presentations from 7 Nobel Laureates as well as other eminent scientists, including **Michael Kastan, MD, PhD,** who will moderate the opening session on Oct. 2. **Nelson Chao, MD,** will co-moderate a panel on Oct. 3 on the Biology of Receptors and Stem Cells — featuring Stanford's Brian Kobilka, MD, co-recipient w/ Dr. Lefkowitz of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; Harvard’s Stuart Orkin, MD, and Stanford’s Irving Weissman, MD.

The event also includes a special leadership session with **Coach K**, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Duke University School of Medicine Dean **Mary E. Klotman**, Duke University President **Vincent Price**, and **Robert Lefkowitz, MD,** which will be led by **Sim Sitkin, PhD.**

**All faculty, staff, trainees, and students are welcome to attend. This event is also open to the public.*

More information, full schedule, and event registration

OCT. 1-3 (in-person & virtual): 2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

REGISTER TODAY | VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

LOCATION: Salamander Washington DC (formerly Mandarin Oriental) Washington, DC

OCT. 10-12 (in-person): The Early Detection of Cancer Conference 2023, presented by Cancer Research UK, Canary Center at Stanford and OHSU Knight Cancer Institute ***Steven Patierno, PhD,** will speak on cancer health disparities and healthcare delivery research

LOCATION: Central Hall Westminster Storey's Gate London, UK

OCT. 13 (8a to 3:30p) : DCI/DCN APP Symposium

LOCATION: The Umstead Hotel || 100 Woodland Pond Drive || Cary, NC

REGISTER & LEARN MORE

Special Events (general public welcome)

September

September Cancer Support Calendar (click to view)

Gail Parkins Memorial
Ovarian Cancer Walk & 5k Run
Saturday, September 23, 2023

SEPT. 23 (8:30a to 12:30p): Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Walk & 5K *Benefits ovarian cancer research at DCI!

The competitive 5K begins at 8:30a and the walk begins at 10:30a. The event includes an educational presentation by a genetics counselor & info about the latest ovarian cancer therapies

REGISTER!

LOCATION: 5500 Dixon Dr. || Sanderson High School || Raleigh, NC

SEPT. 23 (9a to 2:30p): Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Mid-Atlantic Blood Cancer Conference

For patients, families, caregivers, and health professionals!

Sophia Smith, PhD, MSW, delivers the keynote address (Caring for Your Emotions During Cancer), and **Danielle Brander, MD** (CLL), **Lindsay Rein, MD** (CML), and **Hannah Fisher, PhD** (Survivorship/Mindfulness), are among the featured speakers.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

LOCATION: Hilton Raleigh North Hills || 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh

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SEPT. 29 (in person & virtual, 5p to 8p): "New Approaches in the Care of Patients with Prostate and Urologic Cancers" Symposium

For patients! Learn about the latest clinical advances in the treatment of kidney, prostate, and bladder cancers during a live discussion among faculty/oncologists from the DCI Center for Prostate & Urologic Cancers. Speakers include: **William Berry, MD**; **Michael Harrison, MD**; **Zach Reitman, MD, PhD**; **Ankeet Shah, MD**; **Michael Abern, MD**; **Andrew Armstrong, MD, MSc**; **Ryan Fecteau, MD, PhD**; **Christopher Hoimes, DO**; **Shahla Bari, MBBS**; and **Hannah McManus, MD**.

AGENDA

SEPT. 30: Tackle Cancer Tailgate/Duke Football game
DCI hosts a Tailgate party! Come and cheer on our Duke Blue Devils against The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame! Benefits prostate & urologic cancers research at DCI

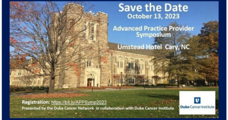
TICKET INFORMATION

LOCATION: Wallace Wade Football Stadium, Duke University

SEPT. 30 (8a to 11a): CRUSH Colorectal Cancer 5K
*Back after a 4 year hiatus! Benefits colorectal cancer research at DCI! Form or join a team or register as an individual to run or stroll through the historic Watts Hospital-Hillandale neighborhood.

REGISTER

A Little Less Behind Team Captain: **Andy Riley** (DCI patient)
Man Up To Cancer Team Captain: **Tom Vibert** (DCI patient)
Butt Blasters Team Captain: **Manisha Palta, MD**
PIA's Team Captain: **Wanda Wray, MS, RN**
Saving Uranus Team Captain: Connor O'Neill, with **Margot O'Neill, PA-C**
and More!



Save the Date
October 13, 2023
Advanced Practice Provider Symposium
Umstead Hotel Cary, NC

Registration: https://bit.ly/APPSymp2023
Presented by the Duke Cancer Network in collaboration with Duke Cancer Institute

Duke Cancer Institute

OCT. 19 (8:30a to 2p): The DCI Cancer Biology Research Program & the Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis host Cancer Biology Retreat

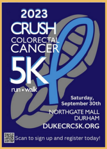
KEYNOTE: Ashani T. Weeraratna, PhD (Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Cancer Biology and E.V. McCollum Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)

FACULTY SPEAKER: **Lee Zou, PhD** (professor and chair of the Dept. of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology

*The day will also include selected trainee talks and a poster session. The goal is to foster interactions across the Cancer Biology Program, to promote collaborations, and support training of the next generation of cancer biologists.

LOCATION: Trent Semans Great Hall

LOCATION: former Northgate Mall in Durham



2023 CRUSH COLORECTAL CANCER 5K
run • walk
Saturday, September 30th
NORTHGATE MALL DURHAM
DUKECRC5K.ORG
Scan to sign up and register today!

October

OCT. 15 (8a): Bull City Race Fest and Food Truck Rodeo, (DCI is a sponsor this year)

*Start and finish at Diamond View Park and choose from the Half Marathon, 5-Miler or 1-Miler. Enjoy a fall morning of running through downtown Durham, Duke University and surrounding Historic Neighborhoods. After you cross the finish line, enjoy delicious eats from a variety of delicious food trucks!

REGISTER

LOCATION: American Tobacco || 318 Blackwell St || Durham, NC

OCT. 21 (5:30p to 8:30p): Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Triangle Light the Night
*Includes festival activities and walk around Symphony Lake

REGISTER!

LOCATION: Koka Booth Amphitheatre || 8003 Regency Pkwy || Cary, NC

OCT. 24 (10a to 3p): Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center Patient Appreciation Day
*Goodies and giveaways will continue in clinic on Oct. 25

LOCATION: Duke Medicine Circle, Durham (The green outside Duke Cancer Center & Duke Medical Pavilion)

"Pinktober"

How can you best care for your breasts?
What about life after breast cancer?

OCT. 7 (8:30a to 1:30p): 7th Annual "What's Best for Breasts: A Conversation with Duke Clinicians"

PRE-REGISTRATION is recommended

SPEAKERS: **Jennifer Plichta, MD; Shelley Hwang, MD; Kathy Trotter, DNP; Koumani Ntowe & Juliet Dalton** (MD Candidates 2025); **Maggie Frazier, CGC; Dorothy Lowell, MD; Laura Rosenberger, MD; Kendra Parrish, DO; Yara Abdou, MD; Rebecca Knackstedt, MD; Julia Selfridge, MD; Robin Hardi-Hood, MD; Gabrielle Brennan, MS; LaSonia Barnett, MA;**
with KEYNOTE by **Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD, MS**

VIEW AGENDA

Topics include: Myth Busters, Risk & Genetics, Imaging, Reconstruction, Local Resources, Exercise, Survivorship, Disparities

LEARN MORE

LOCATION: Trent Semans Great Hall

OCT. 20, 21, 22: Duke Cancer Institute Pickle for Pink Tournament & Silent Auction to benefit Duke Breast Surgery and Duke Breast Oncology programs.

OCT. 20: Pickle Ball Exhibition Match, inc. Collin Shick

OCT. 21-22: Pickle Ball women's doubles, men's doubles, mixed doubles

LOCATION: Duke Faculty Club

LEARN MORE

OCT. 28 (8:30 a to 12p): American Cancer Society Triangle "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer"*DCI is a sponsor. This year's captains are **Jennifer Plichta, MD, MS,** and **Gayle DiLalla, MD**

Join Team DCI !

LOCATION: The Fenton || Cary Towne Blvd and Trinity Rd.|| Cary, NC

Team Spirit

Office of Health Equity: Community Outreach in Action

DCI Office of Health Equity (OHE) community-facing patient navigators **Kimberly Bradsher, BS**, and **LaSonia Barnett, MA**, and Director of the Office of Health Equity **Angelo Moore, PhD, RN**, with some Star Wars villains during a DCI Head & Neck Screening and Education event at a Durham Bulls game (April 29).

OHE and Duke Raleigh Hospital hosted adjoining information booths at the **African American Cultural Festival.** (Sept. 2)

Pictured are **Tiffany Johnson** (and her daughter); **Neal Seigler, MBA** (Duke Raleigh Hospital Administrative Director); **Camille Valentine, MHA, MAT, CLSSGB, CPPS** (Director of Community Affairs at Duke Raleigh Hospital); **Kenneth Dozier** (Public Safety Field Training Officer At Duke Raleigh Hospital); **Malik Simmons, CPRW** (Duke Health Talent Acquisition Specialist); and community-facing patient navigators **LaSonia Barnett, MA**, and **Dalia Antunez, MSW.**

OHE and Duke Raleigh Hospital hosted adjoining information booths at **Western Region Community Health Day in Cary** (Wake County) on Aug. 17.

In this photo, at left, are community-facing patient navigators **Dalia Antunez, MSW**, **LaSonia Barnett, MA**, and **Kimberly Bradsher, BS.** Stroke Program manager **Shannon Chesney, BSN,** is staffing the Duke Raleigh Hospital booth (on the right).

Family Gives Back

This summer the Triangle Area Telugu Association of NC (TATA) hosted a 5K run/walk fundraiser for the Duke Cancer Patient Support program in memory of **Kiran Talasila**, a colon cancer patient treated at DCI who passed away last December. Their $2,500 donation will be used to assist DCI patients who need transportation and lodging to continue their cancer care. (Telugu is the language of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and the Telegu people are an ethno-linguistic group that hails from that area.) READ

Pictured at Duke Cancer Center: DCI Clinical Social Worker **Greg Bankoski;** Duke Cancer Patient Support Program Coordinator **Matt Pennachi;** TATA President Raj Kollipara; and TATA members Manorana Talasila (Kiran's widow), Ram Talasila, and Kesava Vemula

Patient & Neighbors, Give Back

Patient Kimberly Jeddy engaged a Raleigh neighborhood group she started 5 years ago called HG Cares to respond to a flyer at **Duke Women's Cancer Care Raleigh** seeking new and gently used items for the 'no charge' sections of the shops. HG Cares donated 239 self-image items for the boutiques, 249 art supplies, 175 games, and 154 general care items. READ

Around 10,000 items such as wigs, scarves, and hats are given to DCI patients in treatment each year.

Julie Poucher Harbin, Senior Writer, DCI, is Managing Editor of the DCI E-News & the DCI Blog.

FILL OUT THIS FORM to submit announcements of upcoming events; new faculty, fellows, or residents; honors, awards, recognitions, new roles, promotions; and other news you wish to share for potential inclusion in the next DCI E-news or internal channels.

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